

# Chapter 9

*“In the little houses, the tenant people sifted their belongings and the belongings of their fathers and of their grandfathers. Picked over their possessions for the journey to the west. The men were ruthless because the past had been spoiled, but the women knew how the past would cry to them in the coming days. The men went into the barns and the sheds.”*

*“But I warn you, you’re  
buying what will plow your  
own children under.”*

*“This land, this red land, is us; and the flood years and the dust years and the drought years are us. We can’t start again. The bitterness we sold to the junk man- he got it all right, but we have it still. And when the owner men told us to go, that’s us; and when the tractor hit the house, that’s us until we’re dead.”*

*“How can we live without  
our lives? How will we know  
it’s us without our past? No.  
Leave it. Burn it.”*

*“They sat and looked at it and burned it into their memories. How’ll it be not to know what land’s outside the door? How if you wake up in the night and know— and know the willow tree’s not there? Can you live without the willow tree? Well, no, you can’t. The willow tree is you. The pain on that mattress there— that dreadful pain—that’s you.”*

*“And what’s it like in  
California?”*

# Chapter 10



*“Seems too nice, kinda. I seen the  
han’bills fellas pass out, an’ how much  
work they is, an’ high wages an’ all; I  
see in the paper how much they want  
folks to come an’ pick grapes an’  
oranges an’ peaches.”*

*“But he says they’s too many folks lookin’ for work right there now. An’ he says the folks that pick the fruit live in dirty ol’ camps an’ don’t hardly get enough to eat. He says wages is low an’ hard to get any.”*

*“Go skinned on the stuff we sold. The fella knowed we couldn’t wait. Got 18 dollars only.”*

*“...For Ma was powerful in the group”*

*“I’m getting hungry. Come time we get to California I’ll have a big bunch of grapes in my han’ all the time, a-nibblin’ off it all the time, By God!”*

*“We had hard times here. ‘Course it’ll  
be all different out there- plenty work,  
an’ ever’thing nice an’ green an’ little  
white houses an’ organes growin’  
aroun’.”*

*“This here’s my country. I b’long here.  
An’ I don’t give a goddamn if they’s  
oranges an’ grapes crowdin’ a fella  
outa bed even. I ain’t a-goin’. This  
country ain’t no good, but its my  
country. No, you all go ahead. I’ll jus’  
stay right here where I b’long.”*

“Al slipped in the low gear and let in the clutch. The truck shuddered and strained across the yard. And the second took hold. They crawled up the little hill, and the red dust arose about them.”

“We ain’t makin’ no time on this trip.”



# The Joad Family has decided to move to California

Pros	Cons

# What is Ma worried about?

*\*Find the passage in the text*

What did Grampa suddenly  
do?

*\*Find the passage in the text*

# How did their plans change?

*\*Find the passage in the text*